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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,913	05/21/2002	Ernest Arenas	0380-P02709USO	3833

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DANN DOREMAN HERRELL & SKILLMAN
SUITE 720
1601 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

EXAMINER

LEFFERS JR, GERALD G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1636

DATE MAILED 03/19/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,913

Applicant(s)

ARENAS ET AL.

Examiner

Gerald G Leffers Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 19-21, 23-43, 48-54, 58 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-12, 19-21, 32-40 drawn to methods of inducing a dopaminergic neuronal fate for a neural stem cell or neural progenitor cell, comprising expressing Nurr1 above basal levels in the neural stem cell or neural progenitor cell, and the dopaminergic neuronal cell produced thereby; as well as methods drawn to screening for a factor or factors that induce a dopaminergic fate in a neural stem or progenitor cell expressing Nurr1 above basal levels.

Group II, claim(s) 13-15, 41-43 drawn to a process of producing a medicament comprising a dopaminergic neuron and use of the medicament for transplantation into the brain of a subject.

Group III, claim(s) 23-24, 58 drawn to use of a dopaminergic neuron in methods of screening for an agent for use in treatment of a neurodegenerative disease, as well as drawn to a method directed towards using a dopaminergic neuron in methods of screening for compounds that enhance an ability of the neuron to recover from or tolerate a toxic compound.

Group IV, claim(s) 25-28, drawn to a method of formulating into a composition an agent that improves the ability of a dopaminergic receptor to recover from or tolerate a toxin and administration of the composition comprising the agent to an individual.

Group V, claim(s) 29-31, drawn to a method of screening for a receptor or receptors for factors obtained from Type I astrocytes, comprising comparing neural stem and progenitor cells with or without expression of Nurr-1 to identify the receptor(s).

Group VI, claim(s) 48-51, drawn to methods of screening for a substance which modulates the ability of Type I astrocytes, or molecules obtained from such astrocytes, to induce a dopaminergic fate in neural stem or progenitor cells.

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Group VII, claim(s) 52-54, drawn toward administration to an individual of a composition that modulates the ability of a Type I astrocyte, or molecules produced therefrom, to induce a dopaminergic fate in a neuronal stem or progenitor cell.

The inventions listed as Groups I-VII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature is the identification of a factor obtainable from a Type I astrocyte that can induce a neuronal stem or progenitor cell overexpressing Nurr1 to a dopaminergic cell fate. With regard to the other groups, the dopaminergic cells or modulators of the inventions of the other groups could be obtained from alternative sources or by alternative methods. Moreover, the methods of the other groups comprise additional special technical features not present in or required for the methods of Group I (e.g. administration of a medicament to an individual).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

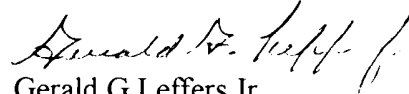
Claims

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald G Leffers Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 308-6232. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am-6:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Remy Yucel can be reached on (703) 305-1998. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7939 for regular communications and (703) 305-7939 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.



Gerald G Leffers Jr.

Examiner

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Ggl

March 13, 2003